(b) and (c) The youth are joining the Indian Army through the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and Officer Training Academy, Chennai, where all vacancies are being filled. However, in the engineering streams there are some vacancies, mainly because, as Indian economy develops, other options are available to the youth. Sustained efforts, like launching of periodical Image Projection Campaigns and organising seminars and lectures in schools and colleges, are being made to attract the youth to join the Army. No proposal for raising the pay and allowances is under consideration.

Non-recovery of killer landmines

583. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some killer landmines planted by the Indian army in the Kassowal Enclave, along the Indo-Pak border, two years ago are nowhere to be traced;

(b) whether it is a fact that army sappers have met no success in recovering the M-16 'jumping jack' mines from some minefields, despite countless rounds of manual and mechanical demining; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Out of the minefields laid in Kassowal Eenclave during Op Parakram, one minefield of approximately 14 acres is yet to be completely demined.

(b) In this minefield some anti personnel mines have not been located so far as they have either been destroyed or are missing due to environmental factors like rains or floods as also tampering by rodents.

(c) The process of recovery of the missing mines is currently underway. If the missing mines remain unaccounted for, then approximately three acres of the Kassowal Enclave may have to be fenced off to avoid any casualties.